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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

GOVERNMENT CLAIMS INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS;
SOVIET CITIZENS BUY GOLD, SILVER

UNEMPLOYED WORKERS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT -- Sopuk Sinmun, 15 Apr 50

The cabinet of the People's Republic of North Korea has announced an increase of 85.9 percent in the industrial production for 1948 over that of 1947, and 73.6 percent for 1949 over 1948. These tremendous production increases have been attributed mainly to the 100-percent employment in North Korea.

A cabinet announcement in March 1950 stated that unemployed workers, or those who are engaged in the work not authorized by the government, will be subject to 2 years' imprisonment.

COMMUNISTS BUY PRECIOUS METALS -- Sopuk Sinmun, 10 May 50

The Ch'uim [Ueda: 8187, 4803] Trading Company of North Korea was established under the order of the Soviet Embassy in P'yongyang, to collect gold and silver in North Korea. This company now virtually monopolizes the gold and silver in North Korea and ships the precious metals to the USSR in large quantities.

The USSR, which has been restricting outflow of gold and silver from Soviet territory, has been busy collecting gold and silver in the Far East. No transactions in Soviet currencies, either in the open or in the black market, can be found in North Korea. The gold and silver are purchased with the inconvertible money issued by the North Korean government.

Soviet citizens in North Korea, both military and civilian, have been encouraged by their government to obtain all the gold and silver that they can. When these people return to their homeland, and MVD immediately seizes it.

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To prevent the flow of precious metals into Soviet hands, it has become the general practice among non-Communist merchants in North Korea to use watchwords in their transactions; "kong" designates the Communists, and "paek" represents the anti-Communists, including the South Koreans. The merchants sell gold only to the latter group.

CATTLE SLAUGHTERING HAMPERS AGRICULTURE -- Sopuk Sinmun, 10 May 50

The scarcity of draft animals, as a result of the wholesale slaughtering of cattle in North Korea to supply meat in Siberia, has been seriously hampering farm operations in North Korea. The scarcity has been felt even in the regions centering around P'yongyang, and Hwangju which have long been known for the production of fine cattle.

FARMERS ABANDON FARMS -- Sopuk Sinmun, 10 May 50

The People's Republic has been exercising drastic measures to meet the critical food shortage that has been felt in North Korea since January 1950. However, the shortage of seeds has been making it almost impossible for the farmers to fulfill the spring sowing quotas imposed upon them by the government. The situation is particularly grave among the Hwachon-min, the settlers who clear fire-fields for agriculture. These primitive farmers usually have meager farm stocks.

Many farmers have been abandoning the farms, only to be imprisoned as reactionaries.

70 PERCENT OF ELECTRIC POWER EXPORTED -- Kukto Sinmun, 21 Mar 50

An unofficial source reports that over 70 percent of the electric power generated by the North Korean power plants along the Yalu River has been supplied to Manchuria and Dairen area.

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